

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for exchanging information frames over a network between a plurality of devices, each device of the plurality of devices comprising a communication circuit connected to a processing unit and comprising a plurality of addresses, each address being associated with one of a transmission indicator and a reception indicator but not both, wherein each address is associated with a memory containing an information frame that can be at least one of modified and read by the processing unit, wherein only a single device of the plurality of devices includes one of the plurality of addresses associated with the transmission indicator, and wherein all other devices of the plurality of devices that include the one address associate the one address with the reception indicator, the method comprising the steps of:

having a master device periodically transmit an address of the plurality of addresses over the network; and

responsive to transmission of the address by the master device:

having the communication circuit of the single device for which the address transmitted by the master device is associated with the transmission indicator transmit the information frame contained in the memory associated with the address over the network and provide its processing unit with an identifier of the address; and

having the communication circuit of each device for which the address transmitted by the master device is associated with the reception indicator write into the memory associated with the address the information frame transmitted over the network by the single device and provide its processing unit with an identifier of the address.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the processing units of each of the plurality of devices, except for the processing unit of the master device [I-] can neither

read nor modify the plurality of addresses and the transmission and/or reception indicators of the communication circuit to which they are connected.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein all communication circuits further comprise a first address identical for all devices and associated with a transmission indicator and a second address identical for all devices and associated with a reception indicator, the connection of a new device to the network comprising the steps of:

having the master device periodically transmit the first address;

having the communication circuit of the new device, upon reception of the first address, transmit an identification frame;

having the master device successively transmit the second address and a parameterizing frame based on the identification frame; and

having the communication circuit of the new device, upon successive reception of the second address and of the parameterizing frame, modify its addresses and reception and/or transmission indicators based on the parameterizing frame.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein each device of the plurality of devices comprises a specific identification number stored in the communication circuit of the device, the identification frame transmitted by the communication circuit of the new device comprising the specific identification number of the new device, the parameterizing frame transmitted by the master device comprising the specific identification number of the new device.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the communication circuit of the new device transmits no data as long as it has not received the first address.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the communication circuit of each device comprises a privilege indicator at a first value when the device is capable of transmitting addresses over the network and at a second value otherwise, said privilege indicator

being set to the first or to the second value by the communication circuit of the new device based on the parameterizing frame.

7-9. (Canceled)